

Swimming Pool Chemical & Safety Guidelines

With the coming of hot weather comes the desire to jump into practically any body of water we can find. The safest ones however are the local community pools or ones owned by a private entity. What makes these the safest places to swim is the time spent preparing these facilities for the summer rush.

Before these pools can open they must go through an extensive inspection process that is conducted by several Fairfax County agencies including Health Department, Electrical Inspections Branch of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, and the Office of the Fire Marshal. These inspections identify deficiencies and hazards that may have been overlooked by the owners or their representatives and, can contribute to personal injuries or hazardous materials emergencies. The inspection also serves as an opportunity to impart information to the representative of the facility from one season to the next and allows for feedback from our community.

Below is a short and by no means comprehensive list of items to consider when getting *your* pool in shape for the summer swimming season. It is intended to provide a look into what your Fire Marshal is considering when conducting your inspection and a list of items to help you get ready for a safe summer of sun, swimming, and fun.

Additional information can be obtained by calling the Office of the Fire Marshal at 703-246-4849

The following items pertain to the *storage, use and handling* of the chemicals used at your pool.

Types of Systems:

- Open- chemical vats open to atmosphere,
- Closed- holding tanks and piping connected to a chlorinating system.

Types of Common Chemicals:

Sodium Hyperchlorite	corrosive
Calcium Hyperchlorite- HTH	oxidizer
Muriatic Acid- aka Hydrochloric Acid	corrosive
Soda Ash-	corrosive

Precautions/ Requirements for Handling Chemicals:

- Fire Code Permits- may be issued to a facility for year round use
 - Required for: Class II Oxidizers - 50+ pounds
 - Corrosives- 110+ gals.
 - Propane (LPG)- 30+ gals. Water Capacity

Material Safety Data Sheets:

- Required for chemicals on site, for which a NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION Standard 704M hazard placard is posted, the type of chemical material is listed on the Fire Code Permit,
- MSDS sheets are available from suppliers,

Known Quantity/ Type of Products Used:

- Is there an inventory of chemicals in use?

Know Type of System Used:

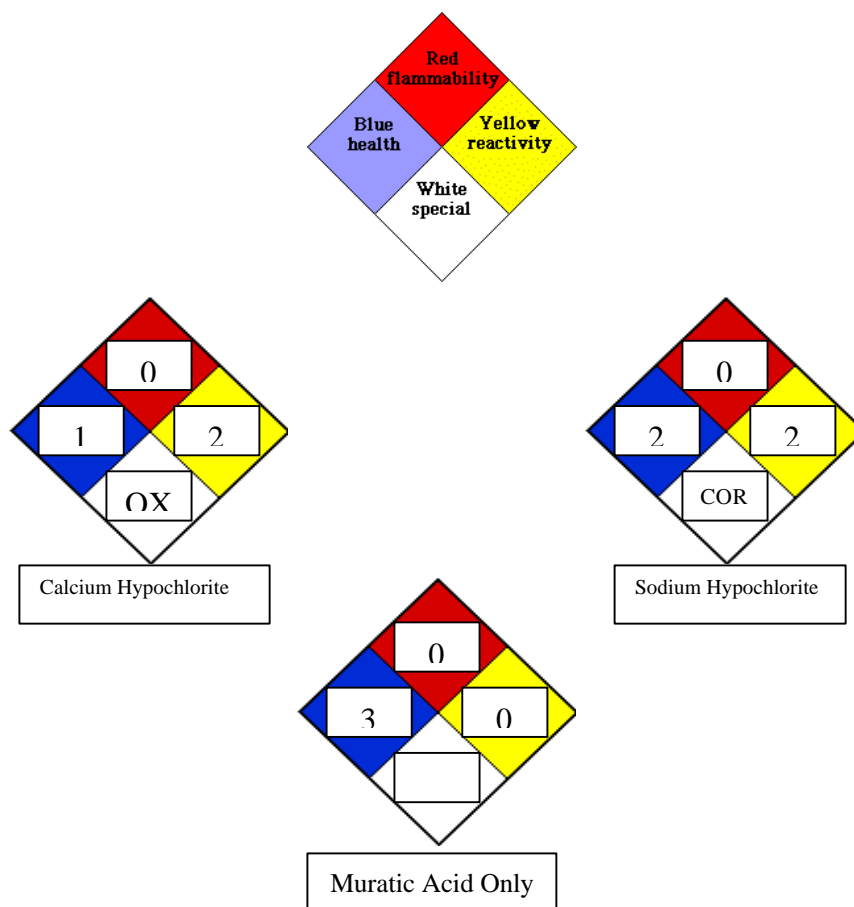
- Is the right chemical being used for the particular system?
- Are vats equipped w/ Secondary containment?
- Required for containers > 1 gallon.
- Ensure the vats have tight fitting tops on them,
- Are the siphon tubes and piping in disrepair?
- Devices using propane also need to be checked,

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Precautions/Requirements for the Pump Room:

- Is there spilled product in the pump room?
- Is there storage of incompatible chemicals in the room?
- Are the electrical wiring/circuits in good condition?
- Is there a 4a20bc fire extinguisher in the pump room?
- If fire sprinklers are present, are they corrosion protected (wax coated)?
- Is the room/building posted with the proper Hazard Warning Placard (NFPA 704M)? These placards may be obtained from the chemical supplier or from safety product catalogs, Internet, sign shops, etc.

Below are examples of the hazard warning placards to be used:



The following items pertain to the *auxiliary* areas of your pool where applicable. These include the dining areas, community rooms, play areas, smoking areas, etc.

Precautions for the Guard Room:

- Is there a telephone?
- Is there a list of Emergency #'s?
- Has the Health Department issued their licenses?
- Do the guards know what emergency action to take?
- Do the guards have a key for emergency access gate? Does it work?

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Precautions for the Community Rooms/Facilities:

Is the address posted on the building?

Are the exit lights working and in good repair (this includes battery backup)?

Are the emergency white lights working?

If cooking facilities are present, has the fire protection system been serviced?

Required every 6 mos.,

Does the facility have a Propane Permit if separate from pool?

Required for 30+ gals WC (usually 6+ cylinders),

Is the propane secured? Where/how is it stored and is the tank placarded?

Do we have access to **ALL** parts of the building/grounds during the inspection?

Notes: